

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2 and 4-24 remain in this application. Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claims 25-32 have been newly added with this amendment, but derive from the subject matter of original Claims 2 and 18-24 respectively. In this regard, it is the Applicant's respectful submission that no new matter has been introduced into the claims, and moreover that all of the claimed matter was described in the application as originally filed or was reasonably inferable therefrom. Please find enclosed the Applicant's money order to pay the additional government filing fees in respect of the newly added claims.

In the Office Action dated August 20, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as having been anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,606,988 (Clark).

In the aforementioned Office Action, the Examiner also acknowledged that Claims 3-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, and in compliance with the Examiner's suggestion in this regard, currently amended Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of Claim 3 as originally filed. Similarly, and in further accord with the Examiner's suggestion, currently amended Claim 12 has been rewritten to include the limitations of Claim 1 as originally filed. In light of these amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of currently amended Claims 1 and 12 is now directed to allowable subject matter, such that the Examiner's previous objection to Claim 1 is hereby respectfully traversed.

Each of Claims 4 and 9 has been currently amended to depend directly from currently amended Claim 1.

It is the Applicant's respectful submission that each of Claims 2-11 and Claims 13-32 now depends, directly or indirectly, from one of currently amended Claims 1 and 12, such that each of these dependent claims is also properly viewed as being allowable.

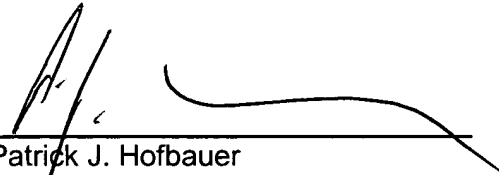
Serial No. 10/720,528
Response dated October 20, 2004 in
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, with a view toward timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If after reviewing this response, the Examiner believes that a telephone or personal interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

Oct. 20, 2004


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